

MARCH SAFETY BULLETIN

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Department of Veterans Affairs
Roseburg Healthcare System (VARHS)

[Edition 1, Volume 4]

From the Safety Specialist:

Code Red/Fire Response

By Shirlene Liles

RACE Applies Everywhere

The **RACE** response procedures that we train staff to use in the event of a code red emergency in your department should be applied anywhere you may encounter a fire, for example in the parking lot or a smoking shelter, whether on or off campus. **R** – Rescue anyone trapped or endangered by the fire **A** – Alarm others by shouting code red **C** – Confine or contain the fire **E** – Evacuate or extinguish. Most of you are familiar with RACE but I want to expand on proper response. Only rescue when you can do so safely, avoid becoming an additional victim. When you are notifying others in the area of the code red communicate the need to activate the fire alarm and emergency response by verbalizing “call *35 or 911” and “pull the fire alarm” to others. When you see smoke coming from an enclosed area which is already contained such a cigarette butt receptacle or a trash can do not open the container or remove the lid. Retrieve the nearest fire extinguisher but only attempt to extinguish a fire if it is small and you feel confident in doing so.

Safety Hotline 44000

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From the Safety Manager

By Jon Hanson

According to American Nurses Association's standards, a culture of safety includes acknowledgement of the risk, a commitment to provide resources to consistently achieve safe operations, a blame-free environment where workers can report errors or incidents without fear, and an emphasis on collaboration across sectors and settings.

“High reliability” principles that go beyond equipment and procedures help create a prevention-based culture of safety, and in turn benefit patient safety as well. Worker involvement in every step of the process, including policy development, equipment selection and placement, education, and evaluation, will help ensure a successful program and safety for all.

Modeling safe behaviors is key to facilitating change. Along with overall safety coordinators, many hospitals have dedicated safety champions or “coaches” on each floor or unit to encourage their colleagues to follow safety policies and procedures. These individuals continually remind and educate their peers about the program and promote a cultural mindset of safety.

From the Emergency Management Coordinator

By Tony DiMare

Floods

Basic Safety Tips

- **Turn Around, Don't Drown! ®**
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.
- If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground. Flash floods are the #1 cause of weather-related deaths in the US.
- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water.
- Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.

After a Flood

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded and watch out for debris. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways.
- Do not attempt to drive through areas that are still flooded.
- Avoid standing water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes.

Source - <https://www.ready.gov/floods>

For additional information –

Douglas County Stream Gage

http://www.co.douglas.or.us/streamreadings/streams_nws.asp

From the Industrial Hygienist

By Alaina Ferrall-Finzer

Personal Protective Equipment

When a hazard is identified in the workplace, and engineering and administrative controls are not adequate to mitigate exposure personal protective equipment (PPE) is issued. There are many types of PPE are available at VARHS:

- Hand/Skin Protection (may be medical use, grounds, electrical)
- Hearing Protection
- Splash Protection for eyes or face (from hazardous chemicals, bodily fluids)
- Respiratory Protection
- Foot Protection

Please take time to review your on hand PPE to ensure it is in good working order. If you find your PPE to be in questionable shape, please let us know, we'd be happy to repair or replace the equipment as necessary. For more information on OSHA's PPE requirements please visit:

https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9777

From the GEMS Program Manager

By Ryan Binford

Spills and Reporting

I wanted to take some time to remind Staff that Spills need to be reported to the Safety Office for a couple of reasons. One, in case you are exposed to a hazardous item. Your Health is number one and we want to ensure you leave work just as healthy as you arrived. Two, in case we need to evaluate the procedures or report on the spill to an outside environmental agency. Some spills happen in areas that require our facility to report to the State of Oregon or the EPA. Your timely response helps keep our facility in compliance with Federal Reporting Regulations.

Please remember that all spills need to be reported to the Safety Office within 24 hours in Issue Brief format.